

March 24, 1975

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I wonder if Senator Kennedy would answer a question.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I'll try to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Kennedy, is this money . . . is this increase in fees needed for the continued operation of the board?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then it's not an attempt . . . because it has to do with an application to begin the practice of veterinary medicine in this state?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Which is part of the cost that the fees are used for in the examination. The cost has gone up some and they've asked for this increase to take care of that original examination.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do veterinarians have to pay a renewal fee here to continue to practice veterinary medicine?

SENATOR KENNEDY: I don't believe that's true. I can't answer that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It seems to me that any license that a person gets from the state has to be renewed periodically. Here's what I'm wondering, if these types of bills are being used to cut down competition, I know somebody can say if a person is going to be able to afford to be a veterinarian they should be able to afford whatever the licensing fee is. This deals with the person coming into the practice and I'm wondering if those who are already practicing would be prepared to have their renewal fee increased also, commensurate to the amount of increase in this bill? So would you have any objection to me finding out about how much is needed to continue running this board? How much fee increase should occur with those who are going to renew their licenses, and add an amendment to that effect on Select File?

SENATOR KENNEDY: At this time I would say I'm sure . . . and I'm trying to remember. They do have an educational meeting once a year to renew their upgrading of their profession. These costs are taken care of by their own department. As far as the renewal fee, I do not think it's any more than a doctor. I don't believe a doctor has a renewal fee and they take care of their own upgrading of their education also themselves.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you Senator Kennedy. Members of the Legislature, as a barber I do pay a renewal fee on my license and we had agreed among the barbers that this fee could be increased to continue the operation of the barber board. It was not a situation where just those people coming into the practice of barbering would have to pay a greater amount than those of us who were in it now have to pay. So if it is a case of paying for a board which regulates and oversees a profession, I think all the members of that profession should bear the burden. If those who are currently practicing as veterinarians are willing to absorb some of the additional costs, I will no longer see this bill as an attempt to place an additional restriction on somebody coming into practice. I intend to get this information myself. If